for 1085—in English and in Malayalam—will be placed in the hands of the Members I shall, as usual, confine myself, in this Address, to a reference to the salient features of the last year's Administration.

Casualties.

2. There were several changes in the higher ranks of the Public Service during the year. Mr. G. N. Krishna Rao, the Superintendent of the Revenue Survey Department, retired in Kanni 1085. It fell to this officer to complete the General Revenue Survey of the State, which had commenced over 30 years ago. Mr. S. Sankara Pillai the Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate of the Padmanabhapuram Division died in Makaram. His Highness' Government lost in him an efficient and most trustworthy Revenue officer. The talented Chief Justice of the High Court, Mr. T. Sadasiva Aiyar, left on short leave in the middle of Karkadagam, and reverted to his own service soon after the close of the year. There have also been other changes, since the close of 1085. Early in Chingam 1086, Mr. O. H. Bensley, the Superintendent of Police, went on leave, and subsequently retired, after an honorable career extending over nearly 40 years. Col. Dawson, the Commandant of the Nair Brigade, left early in Kanni 1086, on leave, at the end of which he reverted to his own service.

Financial.

3. I would invite the careful attention of the Members to the Financial Review given in Chapter II of the Report. The Revenue of the year was Rs. 1,21,03,133, and the Expenditure Rs. 1,19,20,521. There was thus a Surplus of Rs. 1,82,612. On account, however, of the Abnormal Losses, aggregating to Rs. 6,32,334, the nature of which has been explained in the Report, the Balance to the credit of the Government fell from Rs. 71,95,761 at the beginning of the year to Rs. 67,46,039 at its close. The year 1085 closed a quinquennium during which strenuous attempts were made to balance the Finances, and His Highness' Government are glad to be in a position to say that these attempts have, on the whole, been successful. The weak point of the Finances is the Capital liability—aggregating to Rs. 1,17,97,215,—outstanding against the State, on account of the money which had been raised by the South Indian Railway Company, on the responsibility of His Highness' Government, for constructing the Railway line between Shencotta and Quilon. As this Railway has continuously worked at a loss, the Government have had to make an annual payment, averaging about Rs. 2,10,000, to make good the guaranteed interest to the Debenture holders. The question of providing a Sinking Fund for liquidating the liability has not yet been settled. The real difficulty is that the Finances have been *barely* balanced; the surplus of Receipts over Disbursements will, *as matters now stand*, be ordinarily so small, that it will be difficult to provide for an adequate annual payment to the credit of the Sinking Fund.

Main Heads of Revenue.

4. The administration of the Main Heads of Revenue during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory. The 'Land Revenue Demand' (Net) amounted to Rs. 36,00,975 under 'Current', and Rs. 1,58,136 under 'Arrears', making up a total of Rs. 37,59,111. The Revenue Settlement of the State has been finished. The 'Collections' amounted to Rs. 35,88,132, and a sum of Rs. 14,206 was written

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off as irrecoverable. The 'Balance' pending at the end of the year was Rs. 1,56,773. The number of sales was small. In only 147 cases were properties sold, the amount involved being only Rs. 2,524. The Maintenance of Land Records continued to engage attention. The work has made considerable progress in the Padmanabhapuram Division. It has also been well started in the Trivandrum and Quilon Divisions. The Cardamom Department ceased to exist as a separate Department, and it has been merged in the Land Revenue Department, its establishment having been reorganised for the purpose. Under 'Forest', the weak points were the slow progress of the Settlement work, the absence of up-to-date Working Plans for most of the forests, and the increasing stocks of timber in the depots; the satisfactory feature was the increased efficiency of fire-protection, an area of less than 12 square miles being burnt in 1085, whereas the area damaged in 1084 was so large as 191 square miles. In the administration of the 'Salt Revenue', the policy of the Government has been to encourage the manufacture of home salt and also to reduce the volume of departmental action in the matter of the purchase and sale of Bombay salt. The consumption of home salt rose by over 37,000 maunds during the year, while that of Bombay salt fell by over 6,000 maunds. In the result, the total consumption rose by about 30,000 maunds. The average consumption of salt per head of the population reached the high figure of 25·7 lbs. Over two lakhs of maunds of Bombay salt were imported and sold by private agency, the merchants paying to the Government the duty of 1 Re. per maund. The 'Abkari Revenue' rose by about Rs. 70,000, mainly on account of the increase in the area under the 'Excise' system. The policy of reducing the number of liquor shops was persisted in. The total number of 'Country Liquor' shops fell by 1,434, and the number of 'Foreign Liquor' licenses also fell, from 99 to 92. Considerable unsettlement was caused to the 'Tobacco Revenue' by the sudden enhancement of the duty on Jaffna tobacco—from Rs. 90 to Rs. 900 per candy—which His Highness' Government (following the British Government) had to make on the 14th Kumbhom 1085, the enhanced rate continuing up to the 29th Karkadagom following. The 'Tobacco Revenue' fell by over Rs. 20,000, and, if the normal increase which would otherwise have accrued is also considered, the loss must have been more. The 'Customs Revenue' fell by nearly a lakh of rupees, the greater portion of the decrease being under 'Export Duty', due to the yield of the cocoanut tree being less in the year. The 'Stamp Revenue' increased by about Rs. 1,40,000.

Legislation.

5. Four ordinary meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year. Nine Regulations were passed, of which eight were for amending existing Regulations. The other one was to regulate Weights and Measures. The issue of Rules under this Regulation is now under the consideration of the Government.

6. Mr. Kuruvila's seat on the Legislative Council fell vacant some time ago, owing to the efflux of time. The Members of the Assembly coming from the Kottayam Division are requested to meet, under the presidency of the Chief Secretary to the Government, and nominate a person for this vacancy, for the consideration of His Highness the Maha Raja.

7. While on the subject of 'Legislation,' I would invite the attention of the Samastha and Nair Members of the Assembly to the Proceedings of His Highness'

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